

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, November 22. 1711.

I Am none of those who love to dwell upon a Cause; I think I have prov'd the Danger of giving the *Spanish* Monarchy to the Emperor; I shall say but a few Words more to that Point, and proceed; If nothing else but Erecting a-new a *Popish* Power once Dethron'd, will do, these Sheets bear Witness, that it was done Willfully, not Blindly.

The Opposer of my Argument, in the Case of the Emperor's *Exorbitant Power*, has brought it now to this, *That it is impossible for the Emperor to make himself Absolute in the Empire*; and will not allow, that any Man of Sense can say otherwise.

For my part, I must still differ from him, whatever hazard I run, of his Opinion concerning my Sense; and the Reason I bring, is twofold.

1. I prove it may be so, because it has been so; and I think it is not an unfair Way of Arguing neither.
2. I undertake to prove there is manifest Danger of it, and they have often, and lately shew'd, they want nothing but Power to do it again.

All the Objection I can meet with against this, is, That the Treaty of *Westphalia* gives the

the Electors great Priviledges and Powers, viz. Of making Alliances with Foreign Princes for their own Preservation, &c. and therefore the Emperor cannot make himself Absolute; and as he is, I own and believe he cannot, and 'tis for this Reason I am for keeping him where he is.

But is not this strange Arguing, Gentlemen? And would you take such Logick from me; That the Emperor cannot be Absolute now, because the Electors are too strong for him, and therefore he cannot, when he may be made too strong for them? — The Emperor cannot now make himself Absolute in the Empire, and therefore he never can, what Addition of Power or Riches soever you give him.

I do confess, I wonder to hear those Arguments from Men of Sense — I wish they were disposed to consider these Things calmly; I see you are not now, but there is a Time coming when you will be less Obstinate, and I leave it for your Leisure.

1st. The Treaty of *Westphalia* rather restor'd the Electors, Princes, and States to their former Rights and Liberties, than gave them any New; it only built up again those Priviledges, which the Exorbitant Tyranny of the Emperor had Demolish'd, with some necessary Addenda, to fortify the Possession of them: Let any Man look into the Claim of the Protestant Princes to the Emperor, for his Commission to hold the Dyet at *Leipsick*, there they assert, That it was their just Right to meet and Consult of their own Affairs; at that Meeting, they made the Famous Conclusions of *Leipsick*, wherein by Legal Authority, they agreed to raise an Army, and to make Leagues, both with the Kings of *Sweden* and *France* for their Preservation.

It is true, the Emperor declar'd them Traytors for it, and brought many of them to Renounce the said Conclusions again; but it was by Force, and they Vindicated themselves by a long Declaration, in which

they set forth their Undoubted Right to proceed in such a manner; and these Conclusions, tho' several weak Princes were forc'd, as above, by the Emperor's Fury and Military Force to Renounce them, were at last his Ruin, and the Ground-Work of the Liberties of *Germany*.

2. All the Rights and Priveledges of the Protestant Princes, as they were first Overthrown by Exorbitant Power, so they were restor'd by the Superiour Power of the Victorious *Swede*; And may they not again be Overthrown by the like Exorbitant Power? — Was ever a League or Treaty of any Force against a Tyrant? Are the Protestants of this Age so forgetful of the Revolution? Had we not as good Laws as any Nation in the World? Had we not a most perfect Constitution? The Revolution made no Laws, or but very few. What was the Claim of Right? It was only declaring what was Law before, and ought to be restor'd — Yet a standing-Army Government, and an Arbitrary Prince, made nothing of it all; Constitution was no more to him, than the fifth Wheel of a Coach — And shall we forget this, that ought to be so fresh in our Memories? And indeed ought never to go out — Will you venture the Protestant Interest upon Leagues and Treaties, and put a Power to be Lawless into his Hands, presuming that he will be ty'd down by Laws, and hamper'd like *Sampson* with weak Cords? — No, no, keep down the Tyrant, if you will keep up the Law; keep Arms out of his Hand, keep Power at a Ballance, if you will keep Law in its Force; for Laws are empty scare-Crows, where Tyrants have the Temptation of Power to make themselves Absolute; you have cut off the Locks of this *Sampson*, and thereby depriv'd him of his Strength; I tell you solemnly and firmly believe, I speak from more Authority than my own, if you suffer these Locks to grow again,

again, and the Strength of this *Austrian Sampson* to return, it will be for a Plague and a Judgment; and as the true *Sampson* did by the *Philistines*, he will pull your own House upon your Heads, and bury the *Protestant Interest* in the Rubbish and Ruins of its own Buildings.

But I desire to bring this Dispute to a fair close, by asking one Question; to which, if our Opposer will be pleas'd calmly to Answer, we may soon come to an Understanding in this Ungrateful Subject, and bring it to a Conclusion.

WHY? For what Reason? By what Necessity driven? For what Advantage inviting, must the *Spanish Monarchy* be given to the Emperor, and all the Hazards that attend it, both to Religion and Liberty, be run?

I have Argued upon the Danger, I have shewn you my Fears; Fears for the *Protestant Interest*, Fears for the Liberties of Europe — I have, I believe, convinc'd every Body, *that Mischief MAY follow*; for God-sake, for your own sake, and for the sake of your Neighbouring Protestants, and for the sake of Posterity, will you tell us, *Why should we run the Hazard?* Needless Risques are the Effect of the meanest Prudence; What need have you to put it to the venture? Is the Safety of the Protestant Cause a light Thing in your Eyes? Is the Blood and Treasure spent, and the Calamities Germany, and indeed all Europe suffer'd for 30 Years by the same Thing, of no Value in your Eyes? Were not these your Names formerly given to them, *That Bloody, Wretched, Tyrannical House of Austria?* And are the Arguments you then us'd become now of no Consideration? Let any Man read a Book call'd *The Lamentations of Germany*, where the Miseries of that flourishing Country, especially the *Pro-*

testant Part, are describ'd as far as Tongue can express them, and enough to make the Heart bleed that reads them, all occasion'd by the Cruelty and Fury of the Emperor *Ferdinand II.* when Plague, Famine, and Blood laid all Desolate; when Mothers eat their own Children, and the Merciless Soldiers swept away all the Softness of Life; nay, the *German Crabats*, the same we call *Dragoons*, or *Hussars* rather, in many Places killing Men, Women, and Child, eat and devour'd the Children they had Murder'd — Let any Man, I say, read but the Story of those Times, and tell me if there is not Reason to be afraid to put Power into the *Austrian Hands*, and if, at least, we ought not to have very great Reason to do it, before we run such a Hazard?

To tell me of *French Power*, in this Case, really, if it were not too Melancholly, would make Men Smile at the Jest; What has the *French Article* to do in this Argument? I am not talking of *French Power*, I am talking of *German Power*, *Austrian Power* never drown one Devil by another; remember *Austrian Cruelty*, *German Exorbitance*, as well as *French*, a Power so Devilish when rais'd, so Barbarous, so Horrid, we were all glad of *French Power* once, to pull it down — Nay, have we not justify'd the *Hungarians* in flying to the *Turks* for Refuge, and trusting the Enemies of *Christ*, the *Pagans* and *Mahometans*, rather than the Emperor?

I blush when I write this, for these Torn Coats of my own Brethren, I can call them no better, who so few Years ago, were for having the Emperor trod under-foot, as Faithless, Bloody, and I know not what; let Roger the Country-Man look back to former Times, and tell us what Conversation he had with his former Master, when he defended the *Hungarian* Malecontents flying to the *Mahometans*, and bringing the *Turks* into the Empire; and what Language he was taught to give the Emperor? And what he would have done with them?

And

And why, *Rogee*, hast thou turn'd thy Tale now?

Where are those honest People, who were for the *Turks* taking *Vienna*? That would have Count *Tekely* pull down the Emperor?" O that Cursed House of *Austria*! was the Word then: It was the same since, when you fancy'd the King of *Sweden* was a Champion for the Protestant Cause, *another of their Honest well-meaning Mistakes*, what Exclamations have I heard from the Mouths of the very Men I am talking to now, against this *Devilish, Faith-breaking, Perjur'd, Bloody Thing* call'd the Emperor; I give you your own Words, Gentlemen, I can quote you them in Print; I can put you in Mind of them in Discourse, and tell you Time and Place for it all; in the several Cases of the War in *Hungaria*, the Siege of *Vienna*, the King of *Sweden's* entering *Silesia*, and the like—Then the *Mahometans* were Saints to the House of *Austria*, and many a hard Word had I from you for saying, that as the Emperor was our Ally, we could not with Success to the *Hungarians* Malecontents; but now on sudden, the Emperor is the Saint, the House of *Austria* are to be set upon the Necks of the Protestants Interest, and we are no more to be afraid of that Devil, who has three Times Devour'd us; O *Hominem, O Mores*! O turning of Tales for Parties, and for Prejudices!

Now the same People, the very same, are for making this very German Power too Great for us all, setting it up upon the Top of the Pinnacle of Power in Europe, and putting a Sword into the Hands of the House of *Austria* to draw against the Protestants, excusing it with this, That they cannot Tyrannize, because of the Treaty of

Westphalia, or the two Monarchies may be parted again hereafter.

And all this, without any Reason or Necessity—And this brings me, I confess, from Wonder to Astonishment, to Amazement—If there was a Necessity, or any Reason for it, the Case would differ, but to do it without any such Pretence, 'tis *sele de se*, it is cutting our own Throats; Protestants Ruining Protestants; but so indeed Protestants have always done.

This brings me down to a new Branch of my Discourse, in which I dare undertake to prove, that not only we have no Reason to set up the Emperor, as above, but that there is no force in the Alternative; and that 'tis talking Nonsense to say, That it must either be given to the Emperor or to France.

Whereas, on the contrary, I say, I undertake to prove, that we are so far from this Necessity, that the contrary is our present Safety, and will be the Safety of Europe for future Ages; and that by such a Disposition of the Spanish Dominions, as may now be made, the present Protestants Confederates shall be enabled to hold the Reins of Power in their own Hands; the Bit shall be put in the Mouths of the *Papish Leviathans*, and the Superiority of Protestant Power shall never again be Overthrown.

This Occasion is now put into our Hands, or it is not; if it is not, let me be Confuted and Expos'd, and I will bear it with Patience; if it be, let those Protestants among us that would throw it away, tell us, when it is, they ought to expect that Heaven should trust them with such another.

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